

TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY JAPAN

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT REACTION TO ASSASSINATION OF ASANUMA INEJIRO (b) (1)
(b) (3)
(C)

DATE DISTR. 12 OCTOBER 1960

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] OCTOBER 1960

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PLACE &
DATE ACQ
APPRAISAL [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

(b) (1)
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1. [REDACTED] THE NEWSPAPER ASAHI STATED THAT THE GIST OF AN EDITORIAL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF ASANUMA INEJIRO, CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS AS FOLLOWS: THE OUTBREAK OF POLITICAL TERRORISM IS A BIG GAIN FOR THE SOCIALISTS AND A BIG MINUS FOR THE CONSERVATIVES. THE SOCIALISTS WILL GO TO GREAT LENGTHS IN USING SLOGANS SUCH AS "LET US FIGHT OVER THE DEAD BODY OF OUR SECRETARY GENERAL (SIG)." ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE EXACT OUTCOME OF THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE UNDER A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT AND THAT NATURALLY THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE RIGHTISTS ARE LINKED WITH THE CONSERVATIVES. IT MUST ALSO BE REMEMBERED THAT ASANUMA IS LINKED WITH HIS ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND HIS PRO-COMMUNIST CHINA

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2003

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LINE. THE VOTERS WILL CALL TO MIND THE EARLY SHOWA PERIOD. THEY WILL FEAR A POSSIBLE RISE OF POLITICAL TERRORISM. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS INDICATES A MOOD OF AN ULTRA-RIGHT REVOLUTION.

2. A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE NEWSPAPER YOMIURI STATED: "THERE IS A QUESTION AS TO WHY THERE WERE NOT MORE GUARDS AT THE HIBIYA HALL, AND THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT NHK (JAPAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT BECAUSE IT SPONSORED THE THREE-PARTY DEBATE."

3. AN EDITORIAL WRITER ON THE NEWSPAPER MAINICHI SAID HE FORESAW NO DRASTIC ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THE ASSASSINATION AND NO REACTION AGAINST THE POLICE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) WOULD TRY TO USE THE INCIDENT TO PASS MORE STRINGENT POLICE LAWS.

4. A BUSINESSMAN WHO HAD NO DIRECT INFORMATION REGARDING REACTION TO THE ASSASSINATION SAID IT WAS HIS GENERAL IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD PERSONAL SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIM, THE REACTION WAS NOT LIKELY TO EXTEND INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA. ALL PEOPLE WOULD DEPLORE THE ACTION BUT THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE LITTLE REACTION AMONG THE VOTERS. THE BUSINESSMAN FELT THAT IF VIOLENT SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD THEY WOULD PROBABLY BACKFIRE AGAINST THE LEFT, AND HE SAW NO WAY IN WHICH TO BLAME THE JAPAN TEACHERS UNION OR A WEAKNESS ON THE PART OF THE POLICE FOR THE DEEP PROBLEMS FACING JAPANESE YOUTH.

5. EDA SABURO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) SAID ON TELEVISION THAT LEADERS OF THE PARTY ARE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM AND IT IS HIS BELIEF THAT THESE ARE CALCULATED ATTACKS.

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6. KATSUMATA SEIICHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE JSP'S EDUCATION AND PROPAGANDA BUREAU, SPOKE ON TELEVISION ABOUT HIDDEN POWERS BEHIND THE SCENES, INTIMATING THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS A CALCULATED ACTION. IN A LATER TELEVISION DISCUSSION, HIROMI YATAKE, A TV COMMENTATOR, SAID THAT "WE CANNOT SAY THIS WAS A PLANNED ACTION BUT WE MUST WATCH OUT FOR A JSP EFFORT TO MAKE CAPITAL OUT OF IT BECAUSE THAT WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTION IN THE FUTURE." HIROMI REGRETTED THE STATEMENTS MADE PREVIOUSLY BY MR. KATSUMATA.

7. FORMER PRIME MINISTER KISHI NOBUSUKE, SPEAKING ON THE RADIO, EXPRESSED SURPRISE, SORROW, AND REGRET, STATING THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF TERRORISM.

8. MASUTANI SHUJI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LDP, SAID THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE INCIDENT BUT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN PLANS FOR AN ELECTION.

9. A FUNCTIONARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE INEVITABLE SYMPATHY FOR THE JSP AND THAT SUZUKI MOSABURO WOULD PROBABLY REPLACE ASANUMA AS THE PARTY CHAIRMAN. HE ADDED THAT THE INCIDENT MIGHT WELL CAUSE A MORE RADICAL LEFTIST MOVEMENT THAT WOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY RIGHT-WING ACTION. ALL OF THIS WOULD WORK AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE LDP.

10. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DSP, APPEARING ON TELEVISION, SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DIET WOULD NOT BE DISSOLVED BUT HOLD A PROLONGED EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, THUS DELAYING THE PROJECTED GENERAL ELECTION.

11. FIELD DISSEM: CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF, ARPAC

END OF MESSAGE

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